

HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

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HILL-STEAD TO UNVEIL EXCLUSIVE, PRIVATE-LABEL WINES FEATURING ITS WORLD-CLASS IMPRESSIONIST ART

*“Prohibition Peek” Wine Tasting Event in Conjunction with
Jonathan Edwards Winery Launches Collection April 15*

FARMINGTON, CT – Hill-Stead Museum, with Jonathan Edwards Winery of North Stonington, has created three new exclusive wines, with labels showcasing Impressionist artworks on view solely at the 1901 33,000-square-foot estate in Farmington.

“We hope that the combination of great works of art from Hill-Stead Museum and great wines by Jonathan Edwards Winery will create a valuable product worth enjoying and collecting for years to come,” said Sue Sturtevant, Hill-Stead’s executive director. “Just imagine a dinner table or a wedding reception graced with Degas’ *Dancers in Pink* on every wine bottle,” she added. “What we’re unveiling is a unique way to share the breathtaking art inside the museum with the outside world.”

“This is a first for our winery and we’re very excited about it,” said Mark Scherer, director of sales and distribution at Jonathan Edwards. “Hill-Stead is a National Historic Landmark, and the art in its collection can’t be seen anywhere else in the world. We couldn’t be more pleased to pair our wines with such an esteemed institution.”

The wines are a Napa Valley Chardonnay, a Napa Valley Merlot, and a red blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Petite Sirah from Lodi, California. Reproductions of renowned paintings from the Alfred Atmore Pope Collection by Edgar Degas and James McNeill Whistler adorn the labels for the new wines. “A Prohibition Peek” wine-tasting event will give the public a chance to sample the wines, view the collector-edition labels, and place orders.

The wine tasting, taking place on April 15, 7-10 pm at Hill-Stead Museum, will feature hors d’oeuvres prepared by the new Market at Hartford 21, live music by MAJK Jazz, and tours of Hill-Stead, including the newly-restored wine cellar. The event is being sponsored by the Hill-Stead Ambassadors, a new volunteer group focused on developing entrepreneurial opportunities that attract a younger audience to museum events. Tickets

are \$33, in honor of the year that Prohibition was repealed. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.hillstead.org/activities/ambassadors_winelaunch.html.

The new private label collection and Ambassador-sponsored launch event also played integral roles in the restoration of Hill-Stead's original wine cellar.

“An event built on our new partnership gives us the perfect opportunity to showcase Hill-Stead's newly-refurbished wine cellar,” said Emma Simon, president of the Ambassadors group. “We're honored to introduce the space and increase awareness of a little-known part of the house that, up to now, has rarely been seen by visitors.”

“For a household that did as much entertaining as Hill-Stead, the basement wine cellar would have seen much activity on a near-daily basis,” said Melanie Anderson Bourbeau, the museum's curator. “It was an integral space to a period of time and a way of life.” Aside from the event on April 15, the wine cellar will be available for view on select occasions.

Jonathan Edwards Winery has been growing and handcrafting wines in North Stonington, Connecticut for 10 years. In addition to its Connecticut vineyards, the winery has been contracting with vineyards in California to produce world-class wines at their Connecticut vineyard. Grapes for all Hill-Stead wines were harvested and fermented by Jonathan Edwards Winery in California before being brought to Connecticut for aging and bottling. Wines can be ordered at the tasting event through Hill-Stead Museum, and will be shipped directly from the winery. For all inquiries, please contact Mem Legros at legrosm@hillstead.org.

A National Historic Landmark and an Official Project of Save America's Treasures, Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT, is a stop on the Connecticut Art Trail and a member of Connecticut's Historic Gardens. The period rooms are open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm. The last tour of the day begins at 3 pm. Grounds are open daily 7:30 am-5:30 pm. For tour and program information, browse www.hillstead.org or call 860.677.4787.

Hill-Stead is noted for its 1901 33,000-square-foot house filled with art and antiques. Pioneering female architect Theodate Pope Riddle designed the grand house, set on 152 hilltop acres, to showcase the Impressionist masterpieces amassed by her father, Cleveland iron industrialist Alfred A. Pope. Collections include original furnishings, paintings by Monet, Degas, Manet, Whistler and Cassatt, as well as numerous works on paper and Japanese woodblock prints. Stately trees, seasonal gardens, meadows, over three miles of stone walls and blazed hiking trails accent the grounds. A centerpiece of the property is the c. 1920 sunken garden designed by landscape architect Beatrix Farrand, today the site of the renowned Sunken Garden Poetry Festival.

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